

## Improving Our Access to the Water

Waterways are another form of Greenway trail system, with public access (for boating, fishing, swimming, biking, hiking, or just enjoying the view) singled out as one of the five basic Greenway goals. Waterfront projects that combine recreational access and economic development potential for population centers along the Hudson River and other major waterways are of particular interest to the Greenway and other state agencies. Given the limited land west of the railroad tracks and the movement of some industrial uses away from riverfront sites, reconnecting cities and towns with their waterfronts and taking full advantage of the magnificent Hudson River for its recreation, economic revitalization, and tourist opportunities are among top Greenway priorities. Some model projects include:

### City of Poughkeepsie Waterfront

The City has recently updated its Comprehensive Plan and completed a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and Transportation Strategy. All three documents call for a continuous Greenway promenade along the 2 1/2 miles of publicly owned riverfront that extends from the Fallkill Creek south to the DeLaval site, with Greenway trail connections to the Town of Poughkeepsie, including Marist College and the Hudson River Psychiatric Center waterfront lands. Efforts are also underway to extend the trail system inland along the Fallkill Creek to College Hill Park, then hook up with the Dutchess Rail Trail. Park improvements and future mixed use development along Water Street offer a unique opportunity for transit-friendly development potential within walking distance of a major rail terminal. The City is already working with possible developers on the southern waterfront to incorporate the Greenway trail into a mixed use development.



*Full build-out illustration of extended waterfront park and potential development district along Water Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, looking down from the Railroad Bridge.*

**Beacon Waterfront** Beacon has been working in partnership with Scenic Hudson, Inc. on plans to transform the mostly vacant Long Dock peninsula into a model development project with commercial space as well as a public access park. A Greenway trail will connect the train station and City's Riverfront Park to the north with the State Park property at Dennings Point to the south, the Madam Brett Mill Site, and a trail up the Fishkill Creek.



*Part of the trail along the Fishkill Creek in Beacon, funded by a grant from the Greenway Council, connecting the historic Tioronda Bridge to the Madame Brett Mill Site.*



Marist College

*Marist College, working with the Town and City of Poughkeepsie, has received matching grants to create a waterfront park and Greenway trail along its river frontage.*



Town of Hyde Park

*For too long, the railroad tracks have been a barrier for public access to the Hudson River.*

**Marist College, Town of Poughkeepsie** In an outstanding example of providing public access across private property, Marist College is turning its waterfront property into a public park and rowing center. A Greenway trail can connect the City of Poughkeepsie on the south to the Hudson River Psychiatric Center waterfront.

#### **Hudson River Access Projects**

- New York State has agreed to open up the waterfront property of the Hudson River Psychiatric Center for a public park, providing much-needed access to the river in the Town of Poughkeepsie.
- Metro-North has committed to increased public access facilities across its tracks and the Governor has appointed a task force to target high priority locations south of the Poughkeepsie Railroad Station.
- Tivoli is proposing an overhead walkway across the tracks to a new waterfront park, ferry stop, and boat launch.
- A Hudson River Water Trail for day use and long distance boating is being organized by the Greenway Conservancy and the Hudson River Watertrail Association featuring launch sites and eventually camping and overnight facilities every 10 to 15 miles on both sides of the Hudson.
- Rhinebeck is working to restore the pedestrian and vehicular bridges over the railroad tracks in Rhinecliff.

**Public Access to Creeks and Rivers** Other major waterways also deserve public access and economic development attention. The Pleasant Valley Town Plan, for example, identified six public access sites along the Wappinger Creek, including a new park at the old mill site in the center of Pleasant Valley hamlet.



*Canoeing on the Wappinger Creek*